

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4-6, 13-15 and 26-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowable subject matter.

Claims 7-9 and 16-24 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claims 7-9 and 16-24.

Claim Rejections 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3, 10-12 and 25 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being allegedly anticipated by Nemecek et al., U.S. Pat. No. 7,236,921 (hereinafter, Nemecek). Applicant has amended independent Claims 1, 10 and 25 with the indicated allowable subject matter of Claims 4, 13 and 26 respectively. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 1, 10 and 25 are patentable over Nemecek, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency. As such, allowance of Claims 1-3, 10-12 and 25 is earnestly solicited.

For the above reasons, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

CONCLUSION

In light of the above listed remarks, reconsideration of the rejected Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-25 and 27-28 is requested. Based on the arguments presented above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-25 and 27-28 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, allowance of Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-25 and 27-28 is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 50-4160.

Respectfully submitted,
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